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**USDA Forecasts Kentucky Corn Production Higher, Soybean Production Lower**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – Kentucky corn production is expected to increase, while soybean production is forecast lower according to the *Crop Production* report issued today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

“Weather conditions have been generally favorable for crops this summer,” said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. “Flooding took some acreage in July and disease pressure has been higher, but 2016 is shaping up to be a good year. “

**Corn** production in **Kentucky** is forecast at 247 million bushels, up 10 percent from the previous crop. Yield is estimated at 175 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from the 2015 level. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 1.41 million acres, up 100,000 acres from 2015. The **U.S.** corn production is forecast at 15.2 billion bushels, up 11 percent from 2015. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 175.1 bushels per acre, up 6.7 bushels from 2015. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 86.6 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast but up 7 percent from 2015.

**Soybean** production for **Kentucky** is forecast at 85.9 million bushels, a decrease of 3 percent from 2015. Yield is estimated at 48.0 bushels per acre, down 1.0 bushels from a year ago. Acreage for harvest as beans was estimated at 1.79 million acres, down 20,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** soybean production is forecast at 4.06 billion bushels, up 3 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 48.9 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 83.0 million acres, unchanged from June but up 1 percent from 2015.

**Kentucky** farmers expect to harvest 30.3 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2016. The expected crop for 2016 would be down 6 percent from the previous year. Growers expect a yield of 74.0 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from 2015 and unchanged from July. Farmers expect to harvest 410,000 acres for grain. Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.66 billion bushels, up 21 percent from 2015. The United States yield is forecast at 54.9 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushels from last month and up 12.4 bushels from last year. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 30.2 million acres, down 6 percent from last year.

**Kentucky burley tobacco** production is forecast at 114 million pounds, up 9 percent from 2015. Yield is projected at 1,900 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from the 2015 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 60,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from last year's crop. For the **burley producing states** production is forecast at 150 million pounds, up 4 percent from last year. Burley growers plan to harvest 78,900 acres, unchanged from 2015. Yields were expected to average 1,900 pounds per acre, up 66 pounds from last year.

Production of **Kentucky dark fire-cured** tobacco is forecast at 25.7 million pounds, down 19 percent from the previous year. **Dark air-cured** tobacco production is forecast at 11.3 million pounds, down 18 percent from last year.

Production of **hay** by **Kentucky** farmers is forecast to be down from last year. **Alfalfa hay** production is forecast at 608,000 tons, 3 percent below the 2015 level. **Other hay** production is estimated at 5.06 million tons, unchanged from last year.

CROP PRODUCTION SUMMARY, August 1 KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES									
Crops	Area Planted <sup>1</sup>		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2015	2016	2015	2016 <sup>2</sup>	2015	2016		2015	2016 <sup>2</sup>
						Jul 1 <sup>1</sup>	Aug 1 <sup>2</sup>		
KENTUCKY									
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>
Corn <sup>3</sup>	1,400	1,500	1,310	1,410	172.0	--	175.0	225,320	246,750
Soybeans <sup>3</sup>	1,840	1,800	1,810	1,790	49.0	--	48.0	88,690	85,920
Wheat, Winter <sup>34</sup>	560	540	440	410	73.0	74.0	74.0	32,120	30,340
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(1,000 tons)</i>	<i>(1,000 tons)</i>
Hay:									
All	--	--	2,370	2,360	2.40	--	2.40	5,689	5,668
Alfalfa	--	--	170	160	3.70	--	3.80	629	608
Other, All	--	--	2,200	2,200	2.30	--	2.30	5,060	5,060
	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	72,900	74,200	2,055	--	2,034	149,830	150,930
Burley	--	--	58,000	60,000	1,800	--	1,900	104,400	114,000
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	9,900	9,500	3,200	--	2,700	31,680	25,650
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	5,000	4,700	2,750	--	2,400	13,750	11,280
UNITED STATES									
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>
Corn <sup>3</sup>	87,999	94,148	80,749	86,550	168.4	--	175.1	13,601,198	15,153,472
Soybeans <sup>3</sup>	82,650	83,688	81,814	83,037	48.0	--	48.9	3,929,160	4,060,188
Wheat, Winter <sup>34</sup>	39,461	36,538	32,257	30,176	42.5	53.9	54.9	1,370,188	1,657,440
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(1,000 tons)</i>	<i>(1,000 tons)</i>
Hay:									
All	--	--	54,437	56,127	2.47	--	2.50	134,388	140,480
Alfalfa	--	--	17,778	18,065	3.32	--	3.40	58,974	61,507
Other, All	--	--	36,659	38,062	2.06	--	2.07	75,414	78,973
	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	328,650	319,150	2,178	--	2,184	715,946	696,880
Burley	--	--	78,900	78,900	1,834	--	1,900	144,675	149,910
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	17,850	17,150	3,144	--	2,822	56,125	48,400
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	6,200	5,900	2,750	--	2,461	17,050	14,520

<sup>1</sup> Commodities with estimates not available are (*denoted by "--"*). <sup>2</sup> Forecasted. <sup>3</sup> Area harvested represents grain. <sup>4</sup> Includes area planted in preceding fall.